



**The OASIS Institute**  
7710 Carondelet Avenue, Suite 125  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105  
314.862.2933 Fax 314.862.2149  
oasisnet.org

May 18, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

OASIS is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people 50 plus. As part of services provided, OASIS trains older adults to understand the world of technology and to use it effectively. We support efforts that offer new opportunities for older adults to connect to fast wireless broadband and use wireless broadband tools to improve their lives.

We understand that as part of the AT&T and T-Mobile USA merger that there is a commitment to bring fourth-generation LTE wireless service to over 55 million more people than under current plans. We also understand that the impact of this change will be particularly strong in rural areas where many seniors live, dramatically expanding their options for communicating with family, friends, and health care providers. Providing equality in access to fast wireless broadband for older adults in rural and urban America is important.

OASIS is particularly concerned about the prevalence of chronic disease among the aging population including heart disease, diabetes and hypertension and ways in which improved access to wireless broadband can provide new and easier ways to self manage these chronic diseases. Among potential benefits is a whole world of applications that will make the lives of older adults richer, safer, and more enjoyable. Applications in Health are perhaps the most important in this area, helping seniors manage chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease and communicating more easily with their health care providers, particularly across long distances or in situations where visiting a doctor is difficult or impossible.

Equally important, fast broadband connections provide flexibility in work, providing older adults with the opportunity to work longer and to prepare themselves for the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, so many of which will involve broadband and mobile tools. Other applications will help older adults participate in e-government, pursue an interest or further their education.

With the growth in the aging population increasing significantly over the next 20 years, older adults should be able to access the best broadband technology regardless of their geographic location or economic status so they can live independently and access the technology services they will need in order to live in their own homes as long as possible. We believe the merger will assist in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Marcia M. Kerz  
President

CC: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker